



Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain Region)
State Agencies (Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas)
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Great Plains Regions)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain and Prairie Regions)

Final Meeting Minutes October 18, 2001 Denver, Colorado

Members Present:

Bob Jacob
Ken Van Zee
Ray Weidenhaft
Rich Homann
Len Dems
John Glenn
Steve Pedigo
Andy Parker (for Bill Wallis)
Joe Lowe
Paul Pooler (for Darrell Ausborn)
Jim Kelton
Joyce Feeley
Patrick O'Leary

Guests Present:

Lynn Pisano-Pedigo (Facilitator)
Jim Krugman
Sue Muir-Bradshaw
Steve Hart
Glenn Snyder
Jim Strain
Karen Bergethon
Kim Bang
Larry Overby
Joe Hartman
Glenn Bartter
Steve Hasenohrl

Members Absent:

Casey McCoy
Don Westover

Introductions were made and everyone was welcomed by Dave Heffernan, Assistant Regional Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain/Prairie Region. The agenda was reviewed and changes and additions were made.

State Cooperative Fire Agreements. Karen Bergethon (Attachment A)

The Cooperative Fire Agreement for Colorado is completed and is good for 5 years. They are working on agreements for the other states and Karen reviewed where they were with each state's agreement.

Update, Information/Education Committee. Karen Bergethon (for Brian Ayres) (Attachment B)

The Info/Ed Committee was tasked by RMCG, to bring information and education people together to work on things that happen on fires when there are already information and/or education people there, that the team may not be aware of. The Committee presented the following recommendations to RMCG:

1. A cadre listing of qualified National Fire Prevention Team (NFPT) members should be created and maintained.
2. Partner groups need to be present at agency administrator/transition meetings. Agency administrator and ICs must clarify roles and responsibilities; establish a means for a cooperative effort.
3. Team standard operating procedures (SOP) should include a line on the transition meeting form asking agency administrators the goals of their educational component. Clarification of informational roles responsibilities between the various groups should occur. This should be a national standard.
4. Rocky Mountain mobilization guide should include information on operating procedures between IMT and partner groups.
5. Partner groups should be offered ICS training. Forums such as the Colorado Mitigation Conference (Longmont, CO. March 22-24) could be used.

6. Partner groups should be encouraged to include language in their SOP's on coordination procedures with an IMT. The SOP language changes should occur on a regional or national level. RMCG could encourage local fire management units to coordinate with local representatives of partner groups. Tabletop exercises might be a valuable training method.

Decision: The Committee was asked to present the above recommendations to RMCG in the form of an Action Plan at the next RMCG meeting. (01/09/02)

Emergency Management, Glenn Snyder

All coordinating group agencies need to prepare for non-wildland fire incidents. There are many issues developing from the September 11 incident we need to look at and prepare for. One recommendation was some sort of "all risk" training, such as Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) training.

Decision: The ICs will talk with their teams and RMCG will follow up on the topic at the Spring meeting.

Update, Training Committee, Jim Strain/Kim Bang

Jim Strain will replace Larry Overby as the Committee Chair. Larry was thanked for doing a great job and will be presented with a Certificate of Merit from the RMCG.

In 2001, approximately 7100 firefighters were trained in the Rocky Mountain region. Training for nearly all agencies increased due to the National Fire Plan. The training cadre is maxed. We need to do some planning to accommodate the increased numbers for training in the future. The Committee asked RMCG if they would like them to develop a long-term plan.

Decision: RMCG asked the Committee to develop a strategic plan with the following objectives and present it at the spring meeting:

1. Look at including "Non-suppression" training.
2. Coordinate a strategy for including all type of training.
3. Coordinate with all academies.
4. Provide a list of trainees who have completed training and are ready to be dispatched.
5. How to provide the completed training information back to dispatch.
6. Use local colleges and instructors to teach.
7. Consider the coordinated strategy to increase options for recruiting and retaining IMT members.

Bob Jacob will discuss "all-risk" training with the Dispatchers at their next meeting in November.

Saw Training and Qualifications, Bob Jacob

Chainsaw training was deferred to the Operations Committee

Letter from American Red Cross, Steve Pedigo

Steve reported they are still working through all the issues dealing with their responsibilities and working with all the parties negotiating the issues, such as, how do we pay them, how do we order them. Steve hopes to have a draft MOU and agreement with the American Red Cross on all wildland activities by the next RMCG meeting.

Team Dispatches, Missing Primary Members, Patrick O'Leary

Patrick felt, at one time, that we needed to reinstate the wordage in the Mobilization Guide on standing down a team with missing primary team members. He has since decided he would like it to stay the same as is. Something does need to be done to strengthen commitment.

Decision: The Operations Committee will take this opportunity to lay out some new rules for inclusion into the Mobilization Guide. The Committee will involve the Dispatch Committee and the ICs and present the RMCG with a proposal by the next RMCG meeting.

Update, Local Dispatch Center Staffing Analysis, Patrick O'Leary

Most Dispatch Centers are staffed at where they want to be, with the exception of Rawlins and Casper. They have not developed a template for a new staffing analysis yet. They will continue to work on one and have it completed by the spring meeting. (4/1/02)

Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services, Bob Jacob

Bob passed out copies of the Agreement for Meteorological Services. He asked for everyone to review it and provide comments to him.

Decision: Send comments to Bob Jacob by October 23, 2001.

Patrick reported the meteorologists are in place at Rocky Mountain Coordination Center and are very busy. They are already looking at hiring a couple seasonals to assist and are also looking at a Smoke Management position.

Bob encouraged current chair to attend the joint meeting of the NWCG and GACGs each year.

Ops Committee Update, Jim Krugman

- Revised Charter for Signature ([Attachment C](#))
Decision: Charter was revised, approved and given to Bob Jacob for signature.
- Team vacancy advertising/needs/requested additions – The OPS Committees recommends going to long teams as the regional standard. Exceptions can be made as stated in the Mobilization Guide.
Decision:
 1. RMCG approved going to the Long Team configuration as the regional standard, except for Wyoming State Fires.
 2. The Computer Technical Specialist (CTSP) will be added as standard for Type 2 long team.
 3. The OPS Committee will provide nominations for Deputy IC on the Type 1 team to RMCG.
 4. RMCG will allow participation by other regions people on Rocky Mountain area teams.
Rocky Mountain area people may participate on other regions teams on a case by case basis.
- Chainsaw Training - The OPS Committee was tasked with reviewing a chainsaw training proposal, recommending an area-wide program with coordinator at the Dispatch Area level. It was the recommendation of the OPS Committee that no multi-agency program be pursued and that each agency continue to operate within the guidelines of their current program requirements. ([Attachment D](#))
Decision: RMCG approved the recommendation of the OPS Committee.
- NARTC would like a list of 520/620 candidates for 2003. List is due November 1, 2001.
- Agency Administrator training will be held in Denver April 22-26, 2002. Hosted by Jim Krugman
- Jim proposed a plaque be awarded to two people. **RMCG approved. Jim will prepare a write up and give it to Len Dems.**
- 2001 Team Assignment Summaries/Issue – RMCG discussed a performance appraisal for Joe Hartman's team. The appraisal prompted a review, which is completed, but the report is still in draft. When the OPS Committee receives the final review, they will prepare a report for RMCG. If any of the Directors would like to review any of the documents, Joe Hartman has copies available. (Draft review, Safenet, Hartman's response) The OPS Committee recommends: 1) Do not accept the evaluation. 2) Do accept the results of the review. 3) Wait for final review and follow up with RMCG at the next meeting.
Decision: RMCG approved the recommendation of the OPS Committee.
- Operation Committee Meeting Minutes ([Attachment E](#))

Miscellaneous

Bob Jacob -

- It is time to update the Rocky Mountain Indian Firefighting Program MOU. Each agency should look at the current MOU and make recommendations for change and/or additions. **All BIA people will take the lead on updating the MOU.**
- The RMCG Charter needs to be revised by January for inclusion in the 2002 Mobilization Guide. Bob and Joyce will make the changes and send to everyone for review.
- Bob asked for any issues for the Dispatch Workshop. Suggested issues were: 1) Copies of resource orders to sending unit. 2) Include override code on resource order. 3) All risk issues. 4) Missing team members.

Fire Use Teams Rotation –

Recommendation from OPS Committee is to have one in the area and include it in the team selection process. **Bill Wallis and Len Dems will prepare an issue paper for presentation at the January RMCG meeting.**

Conference Calls – No conference calls needed before January meeting.

Next Meeting – Week of January 7, 2002. Proposal was to meeting somewhere close to the Great Plains Training Academy so RMCG could observe. Exact date and location has not been finalized.

Spring Fire Management Meeting – April 1-5, 2001, Rapid City, South Dakota. Ramcoda Inn (old Howard Johnson's)